Highways in Rajasthan

†419. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 23 proposals of Rajasthan Government related to Inter-State roads are pending with Government;

(b) whether four proposals of Inter-State roads are pending with Government for technical approval and financial sanction;

(c) if so, since when these proposals are pending;

(d) by when Government would accord approval to these proposals and sanction these estimates; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. Only 9 proposals under Inter-State Road connectivity were received from Rajasthan Government for the year 2004-05 out of which 6 proposals have been selected for in-principle approval keeping in view the availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. These four proposals of Inter-State roads were received in the month of November, 2004. One proposal has been returned to State Government for modification as per Ministry's guidelines. Remaining three proposals have been taken up for technical scrutiny.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

420. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that completion of the Rs. 25,000 crore Golden Quadrilateral Project linking Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, originally targeted for June, 2003 and subsequently revised to December, 2004 has been further delayed;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor and fresh time-table drawn up for completion of the super highway;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the likely cost escalation involved; and

(d) the details of monitoring system established to ensure timely completion of the project and also to review the quality of work progressively completed by the contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Golden Quadrilateral is likely to be completed substantially by December 2005. Problems encountered in implementation of the project include:

(i) Delay in land acquisition and shifting of utilities

(ii) Delay in environmental/forest clearances

(iii) Slow mobilization, tardy implementation and poor performance of some contractors

(iv) Delay in clearances for Road Over Bridges from Ministry of Railways

(v) Quarry problems

(vi) Law and order problems in some States

(c) The estimated cost of the Golden Quadrilateral is Rs. 25,055 crores. It is estimated that the actual expenditure will be within the estimated cost, allowing for escalation.

(d) The monitoring system established for timely completion and review of quality of work is as under:

(i) The contracts are supervised by reputed consultants.

(ii) The contracts are regularly monitored by the Project Directors in the field and officials of NHAI at Headquarter at various levels.

(iii) Quality audit is being carried out by an independent agency *i.e.* Engineers India Ltd. on identified stretches.

Upgradation of National Highways

421. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to upgrade the country's National Highways;